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25 February 1945

Hq 2677th Regiment
Detachment "R"

GR-269

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICESCOUNTRY Rumania
SUBJECT FND demonstration and demonstration
at Palace.ORIGINAL REPORT NO. GR-269
DATE OF REPORT 25 February 1945
EVALUATION B-2 to C-3CONFIRMATION
SUPPLEMENT
CORRECTIONSOURCE Z
SUB SOURCE as statedDATE OF INFORMATION 24 February 1945
PLACE OF ORIGIN RumaniaNUMBER OF PAGES 3
ATTACHMENTS
THEATRE KSDRO

MICROFILMED

FEB 25 1963

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The following account of the FND demonstration in Bucharest on 24 February 1945 and the ensuing disorders in front of the National Palace represents the combined information obtained by several members of our staff:

1. Description of Demonstration

The demonstrators, organized in occupational groups with numerous banners, began arriving at the Piaza Matziunei shortly after 1300 hours. The bulk of demonstrators marched from concentration points in the city area. Numbers however, were transported from outside the city limits by trucks from points as far removed as Ploesti and as many as 2000 were reported as having arrived from other points in the country by train. The demonstration officially began with speeches at 1445. Preliminary estimate of the number of demonstrators is 75,000 to 100,000.

The following banners were most numerous:

"Down with Radescu!"

"We want an FND government!"

"Death to the Fascists!"

"Down with Maniu!"

"Down with the saboteurs in the government!"

"Long live the King, Chief of the army!"

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"Long live the Romanian Army!"

There were also pictures of Stalin (largest and most numerous), the King, Churchill and Roosevelt. Practically each group carried Romanian, American, British and Russian flags, also a few French flags.

The temper of the crowd was mixed and enthusiasm appeared to be concentrated in the immediate vicinity of the speakers' platform. The demonstration as a whole was quiet and orderly. No Romanian police were observed at the scene but a few Russian patrols, in groups of two or three, circulated through the fringes of the crowd. In general, the contents of the speeches contained repeated sentiments of the placards. Teohari Georgescu, deposed Under-Secretary of Interior, was the principal speaker. The crowd began disbanding at 1600 hours. The demonstrators, following instructions, proceeded in orderly manner to the square in front of the Royal Palace and the Ministry of Interior.

2. Events in Palace Square

Demonstrators began arriving in quantity at the palace area square about 1545 hours and consisted largely of the organized demonstrators. It is estimated that 20-25,000 reached the palace area. About 1700 hours the demonstrators moved in large numbers toward the Ministry of Interior building. At 1710 hours several small calibre pistol shots were fired from the crowd, then shots of larger calibre were heard and the crowd panicked in front of the Ministry building. A few moments later there were several volleys of rifle and machine-gun fire over the heads of the crowd from guards on the upper floors of the Ministry of Interior. During the next hour, sporadic firing took place as the crowd dispersed and reformed intermittently. During this time, speeches and shouting were in progress.

The size of the active groups in front of the Ministry was estimated at less than one thousand and their intention was to gain entrance to the Ministry building. Two attempts were made to storm the door unsuccessfully. By 1900 hours the guards in the Ministry building had fired approximately 150 shots and the demonstrators had fired a minimum of 30 in return. Ascertainable casualties were one demonstrator and one soldier wounded. The guard at the Ministry had orders to shoot into the air and fire only when fired upon. The crowd began dispersing at about 1900 hours. By 2000 hours there were small groups of demonstrators left at the square totalling probably 200.

According to one report, ^{X-14} George D. I. communist Minister of Communications, spoke to the crowd and urged them to go home, promising that the Russians would investigate the situation fully.

3. Interview with Rădescu

The Chief of Staff of the Soviet Military Command of Bucharest interviewed General Rădescu at about 1800 hours in the Ministry of Interior building. General Rădescu exhibited two bullet holes in the window of his private office which appeared to have originated from the crowd in the square. Rădescu stated that he would not leave the building and would not turn over the country to mob rule. The Russian officer stated that General Moskvitan, military commander of Bucharest, had previously issued orders to the Russians not to interfere with the demonstration or with the

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Rumanian army. After the shooting started he informed General Teodorescu, Rumanian Commander of Bucharest, that firing against the crowd must cease immediately. General Moskviton also stated that he was telephoning Marshal Malinovski to report on the happenings. Twelve Soviet guards were promised to Rădescu to guard the Ministry building, and permission was granted to keep all the Rumanian troops in the building for the Ministry's protection.

4. Information from the Palace

Persons at the Palace window facing the square during the entire demonstration, confirmed the above statements concerning the events in the Palace square.

A report was given to the King at Sinaia that the FND had staged three other demonstrations simultaneously; at Craiova, crowds stormed the Prefecture and occupied it with no casualties since the guards had orders not to fire; at Caracal, the crowd stormed the Prefecture unsuccessfully because of army resistance and several persons were killed and wounded; at Brasov the National Peasants and FND rallies clashed.

At about 2045 hours, several hundred National Liberal and National Peasant supporters marched by the Palace in Bucharest singing the National Anthem and shouting "Long live the King", and "Rădescu and order". Counter-demonstration lasted at least an hour and the crowd was last seen marching down the boulevard burning FND signs hanging from street-car wires.

5. Consequences of demonstration

According to report from sources close to the Palace, Patrascu, communist leader, stated that the government was guilty of firing on the people and he requested the Marshal of the Palace to ask the King to come to Bucharest as soon as possible in order to solve the crisis.

At approximately 2200 hours General Rădescu addressed the nation over the radio. He referred to events of the afternoon, both in Bucharest and in the provinces and attacked FND as the instigators of these disorders. He specifically blamed Ana Pauker, Moscow-trained communist leader, and "Bulgarian" Vasile Luca, secretary of the Communist party and stated that they were people without country and without God. He also stated that, at 2115 hours two persons were killed and eleven wounded in front of the Ministry of Interior by machine-pistol fired from a moving car. This followed the National Peasant demonstration mentioned in paragraph 4 above, but connection between the two incidents has not been established. He concluded by rallying the nation to support him and the army in maintaining order.

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